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CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TO THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2002-2005

Report by the Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report contains the contribution, developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with inputs from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP, to the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The document is before the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials for its review and endorsement, as called for in the memorandum dated 9 February 1999, from Mr. Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller of the United Nations.

Suggested action by the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

3. The High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials may wish to review, provide its comments on and endorse the draft UNEP medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as developed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives together with the UNEP secretariat.

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I. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2002-2005

A. Process of consultation between UNEP and the Committee of Permanent Representatives

4. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) carried out consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives in conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and 53/207 of 18 December 1998, which emphasized the importance of the consultative process with Member States. This was to ensure that intergovernmental bodies were accorded an opportunity to review the medium-term plan, with a view to taking their inputs into account when finalizing the document.

5. Subcommittee I of the Committee of Permanent Representatives met on 8 and 14 September 1999 with the aim of eliciting the views and agreement of Member States on the overall orientation of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, including the overarching objectives, specific objectives, expected general and specific accomplishments for all the seven subprogrammes of the UNEP programme.

6. The first draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was circulated to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 8 July 1999, with the request that comments be submitted to the UNEP secretariat by 15 August. Three Governments submitted written comments. At its sixty-eighth meeting, on 1 September 1999, the Committee of Permanent Representatives made general comments and observations and decided that Subcommittee I, on programme matters, together with the secretariat, should review the document in detail and provide comments thereon. Subcommittee I met on 8 and 14 September 1999 to provide further comments on the draft medium-term plan and it was on the basis of those comments that the draft document was finalized by the UNEP secretariat.

7. The plan, in its current form, builds on the comments of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, notably its Subcommittee I. It also takes into account the ongoing process of in-house consultations, discussions and reviews by the directors of the divisions responsible for achieving the overall objectives and the UNEP Senior Management Group.

8. It was UNEP which facilitated the process of intensive consultations that have taken place on this document, drawing interlinkages and dependencies between the various subprogrammes. Particular efforts were made to ensure that the overall objectives and expected general and specific accomplishments under each subprogramme reflected the functional integration of the Programme and the organizational structure of UNEP.

9. The Subcommittee's attention was drawn to the departure from the traditional form and practice, since the draft medium-term plan submitted to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives does not directly highlight major environmental issues such as freshwater, oceans, biodiversity, land degradation, forests, health, in a sectoral manner.

10. The plan is, however, in conformity with the new organizational structure of UNEP and maintains focus, efficiency and effectiveness. The new presentation and structure do not imply that any of the major environmental issues will receive less attention in the Programme. Indeed they will receive full and focused attention.

11. The functional character of this policy framework is that it analyses the challenges posed by environmental problems and sets out policy goals that cut across administrative boundaries. The key elements of this integrated approach to environmental management are reflected in the present draft document:

(a) Identification of environmental themes as the basis for policy;

(b) Identification of target groups as partners in policy development and implementation; and

(c) Process of internal integration in environmental policy making.

12. The focus of functional integration is to displace the traditional compartmentalization of environmental problems, so that policy makers work with cross-cutting concepts that allow all aspects of an ecological issue to be addressed.

13. Essentially, the intergovernmental consultative process is intended to ensure that UNEP presents a forward-looking planning document that takes into account the views of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as the requirements prescribed by United Nations Headquarters.

14. In particular, the Subcommittee took cognizance of requirements for the format and substance stipulated by Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller of the United Nations, regarding the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

15. Pursuant to those requirements, the overall narrative for each of the programmes should not be more than one-page single-spaced and should describe the overall orientation of the programme by indicating the broad approach or strategy in pursuit of mandated objectives. Specific activities and outputs should not be described. In addition, the narrative must reflect those mandates which provide strategic direction for the programme and therefore govern the overall work of the department or office responsible for the programme. It must indicate the expected accomplishments by the end of the plan period and indicate the organizational unit responsible for achieving the overall objectives.

16. The first section of the UNEP medium-term plan, entitled "Orientation", closely adheres to this requirement.

17. Regarding the subprogrammes, the instructions state that the programme managers should undertake a comprehensive review of their current programme and subprogrammes to determine their contribution to the overall goals of the United Nations Organization and the most effective way to implement their mandates in a more coordinated manner.

18. The instructions further state that the programme framework will continue to reflect congruence between the programmatic and organizational structures, so as to enhance accountability and foster the link between the plan and the programme budget. It is therefore essential that each subprogramme cover an area of activity entrusted to one major organizational unit within a department or office. Thus, responsibility will be clearly identified for planned accomplishments and for the delivery of programme.

19. The instructions also call for consideration to be given to the regrouping or clustering of activities in order to link them to the overall objectives of the programme. Subprogrammes should correspond to an organizational unit within the department or office, normally at the level of a division.

20. Once it has been cleared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the final draft will be presented for endorsement to the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials at its fourth meeting, in Bonn on 1 November 1999. The secretariat will, as appropriate, revise the document in the light of the comments that the Bonn meeting may propose prior to submission to United Nations Headquarters in New York, in time to meet the deadline of 1 December 1999.

B. General observations by the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

21. The members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives made the following general observations and comments.

22. On the expected overall accomplishments, one representative proposed that the performance indicators be specified for each of the subprogrammes. Another representative also proposed that close linkages be established between the objectives of the medium-term plan and the relevant decisions of the UNEP Governing Council.

23. Some representatives suggested that there be a detailed description of outputs and activities. The secretariat drew attention to the fact that the instructions provided by United Nations Headquarters had urged that the submission should refrain from specifying activities and outputs. Other representatives, justifiably, recommended that the medium-term plan should contain a clear indication of the strategic direction of the plan and the expected accomplishments and products at the end of its life span, i.e., 2005.

24. Some representatives also proposed that the medium-term plan be reviewed from time to time. The secretariat explained that the United Nations Committee on Programme Coordination had made provision for such an exercise and that the intervening sessions of the UNEP Governing Council (i.e., 2003 and 2005) would, in many respects, provide additional opportunities for that purpose. The Subcommittee also agreed with a suggestion by one representative that the overall orientation of the medium-term plan should indicate the three or four themes which would be accorded a high degree of attention, such as environmental assessment, the increased advocacy role of UNEP and more focused international cooperation.

25. One representative drew the Subcommittee's attention to the need for clarity in describing the scope and nature of the role of non-governmental organizations. Some representatives, including those who are currently chairs of certain intergovernmental bodies, commented that the draft medium-term plan was being reviewed at headquarters and that the comments received would be subsequently brought to the attention of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials.

26. A proposal was made to the effect that the working documents for the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, where possible, should be placed on the worldwide web for easier and quicker access by their capitals. One representative emphasized that the document should not give the impression that UNEP was involved in development assistance or in aid-delivery. The role of UNEP was to facilitate and catalyse action.

C. Proposals and inputs specific to the section on the overall orientation of the medium-term plan as a whole

27. One representative, commenting on the first draft, said that economic liberalization could lead to more competition which could enhance cleaner production and pointed out that trade liberalization did not necessarily induce negative environmental impacts. Another representative was of the view that too much emphasis was placed on "early warning", and when what was really needed was greater attention to the role of UNEP in setting the global environmental agenda.

D. Proposals and inputs specific to the respective subprogrammes

28. To a large extent, the members of the Subcommittee were satisfied with the incorporation of their inputs in the revisions made. The secretariat also worked with a member of the Subcommittee in further reviewing the draft document. The member was satisfied that his Government's concerns were now duly and appropriately reflected in the current document. Set out below are the specific suggestions from some representatives:

29. Referring to subprogramme 1, one representative emphasized the importance of the role of UNEP in scientific research with regard to the identification of emerging environmental issues.

30. With regard to subprogramme 2, one representative indicated that the description of the role of non-governmental organizations should take into account their observer status and that their participation in decision-making was not anticipated in certain countries. Another representative discussed the issue of stable, predictable and adequate funding for UNEP activities. There was a need to make a distinction between the administrative and substantive role of UNEP in that area.

31. Turning to subprogramme 3, one representative proposed that the need for financial assistance by developing countries for their adoption or acceptance of environmentally-sound technologies should be emphasized. Another representative pointed out that the role of UNEP in the area of compliance and enforcement should be clearly defined. It should be limited to the identification of trends in non-compliance so as to ensure appropriate reporting to Governments.

32. With regard to subprogramme 5, one representative called for coherence in and proper linkages between the decisions made at UNEP headquarters or by the UNEP Governing Council and regional delivery. The representative also emphasized the need for responses to environmental emergencies where affected countries so requested. Another representative proposed that there should be a clear emphasis on the importance of revitalizing the regional seas programme.

33. One representative, referring to subprogramme 6, strongly recommended that reference should be made to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, in particular its paragraph 7, which states that the Assembly supports the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by UNEP, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and emphasizes in this regard the need to provide UNEP with adequate resources to perform this task.

34. As agreed at the end of the Subcommittee I meeting of 14 September 1999, the secretariat has re-examined all the inputs or comments made and has, accordingly, prepared the final draft for the consideration of the forthcoming High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials meeting to be held in Bonn on 1 November 1999, where there will be an opportunity for a final review of the medium-term plan. The draft UNEP medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 is provided below.

II. DRAFT UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2002-2005

A. Orientation

35. Building on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the decisions of the Governing Council at its twentieth session and taking into account the new functions of UNEP, the medium-term plan will provide strategic direction for keeping under comprehensive review the state of the global environment, as well as its trends and conditions, while developing appropriate policy responses and providing early warning on the basis of the regional and global environment outlook. The plan will have the following orientation:

(a) To fill the information and knowledge gaps on critical environmental issues through a more comprehensive assessment;

(b) To advocate for appropriate integrated policy measures in tackling the root causes of major environmental concerns;

(c) To mobilize action for greater international and United Nations system-wide cooperation in dealing with them. The strategic goals of the UNEP medium-term plan will include:

(i) To chart a new course for the global environmental agenda by providing early warning on the critical and new environmental issues that are likely to have serious impacts on human health and well-being as well as on the economies of nations;

(ii) To strengthen the advocacy role of UNEP, especially with regard to:

a. The root causes of environmental problems;

b. Better integration of environmental consideration of governmental and intergovernmental decision-making;

c. More comprehensive and integrated policy instruments, including legal, economic and other tools;

(d) To provide leadership for the better integration of international action to improve the environment, particularly in relation to regional and multilateral agreements, as well as United Nations system-wide collaborative arrangements.

B. Mandates providing strategic direction

36. The mandates providing strategic direction were drawn from the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) of 16 June 1972; General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 42/186 of 11 December 1987, 47/190 of 22 December 1992, 48/174 of 21 December 1993, S-19/2 of 28 June 1997; the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 (especially its chapter 38); Commission on Sustainable Development decisions; and Governing Council decisions, especially 18/1 of 26 May 1995, 19/1 (Nairobi Declaration) of 7 February 1997, SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 and 20/3 of 3 February 1999.

C. Benchmarks and milestones envisaged for the end of 2005

37. The following are envisaged for the end of 2005:

(a) Strengthened assessment capabilities, especially in relation to the interlinkages of major environmental issues;

(b) Comprehensive and integrated reporting on the major environmental concerns, trends and emerging issues, together with their causes, as well as social and economic impacts which are likely to dominate the first decade of the twenty-first century;

(c) Environmental perspectives on key issues likely to be on the centre stage of the global environmental agenda of the twenty-first century;

(c) Sound assessment of environmental trends and conditions at the national, regional and global levels for updating the global environmental agenda through intergovernmental dialogue;

(d) More comprehensive integrated policy-making to deal with some of the critical issues identified in subprogramme 1, especially those relating to escalating environmental problems and to new and emerging issues;

(e) Improved United Nations system-wide coordination on environmental issues through the operationalization of the Environmental Management Group;

(f) New negotiations initiated and agreements concluded on certain emerging issues;

(g) New forms of technical cooperation developed in the transfer of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies;

(h) Strengthened capacities for supporting international responses to environmental emergencies;

(i) Binding and non-binding agreements on some critical and emerging environmental concerns;

(j) Greater worldwide use of technologies, products and services which are cleaner and safer, the more efficient use of energy and water and reduced pollution and risks for humans and their environments;

(k) Greater leadership role in coordination and cooperation with Governments, United Nations agencies and other partners in tackling major environmental issues of crucial concern;

(l) Updated and revitalized regional seas programme;

(m) More structured and coherent collaborative arrangements between the conventions (regional and global);

(n) Heightened environmental awareness among the public, leading to new actions and initiatives at all levels of society;

(o) Innovative local solutions, including public participation, to environmental problems;

(p) Wider use of the new information technology, including the worldwide web, in disseminating environmental information.

D. Organizational units responsible for achieving the overall objectives

38. The responsibility of achieving the overall goals will be entrusted to the Division of Environmental Information, Assessment and Early Warning; the Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law; the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation; the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics; the Division of Regional Cooperation and Representation; the Division of Environmental Conventions; and the Communications and Public Information Branch.

E. Subprogrammes

39. Set out below are the seven subprogrammes to be implemented:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning;

(b) Subprogramme 2: Policy development and law;

(c) Subprogramme 3: Policy implementation;

(d) Subprogramme 4: Technology, industry and economics;

(e) Subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation;

(f) Subprogramme 6: Environmental conventions; and

(g) Subprogramme 7: Communication and public information.

1. Subprogramme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning

40. This subprogramme provides the basis for analysing the state of the global environment, trends and conditions, and for providing early warning information on emerging issues and environmental threats, based on the best scientific and technical capabilities available. In addition, it will serve as a basis for intergovernmental dialogue on setting the global environmental agenda. The work to be carried out under this subprogramme will be integrally linked to the goals of the other subprogrammes, particularly subprogramme 2: Policy development and law and subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation.

41. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To improve decision-making, by providing information on the global environmental trends and conditions and emerging issues;

(b) To provide information essential for policy review, analysis and development; and

(c) To develop an effective global observing and assessment system.

42. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To develop a more comprehensive and efficient data-collection system, necessary for observing and managing global environmental change through a wide range of partnerships with data providers;

(b) To compile and analyse relevant data, information and knowledge on strategic sectoral and global issues;

(c) To assess and report on the state of the regional and global environment, identifying environmental trends, threats and emerging issues;

(d) To disseminate, for the purpose of improving decision-making, updated environmental data, indicators and information for the global community;

(e) To strengthen the coherence and efficiency of the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch;

(f) To reinforce links with the scientific community in furtherance of policy-relevant environmental research;

(g) To complete the global international waters assessment financed by GEF and the international community; and

(h) To undertake an assessment of the state of the global marine environment.

43. The expected accomplishments include:

(a) The identification of global environmental priority issues and potential disasters, which are likely to impose constraints on national and regional economies, in the first decade of the twenty-first century;

(b) Improved environmental data and quality.

44. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Identification of major environmental concerns, trends and emerging issues together with their root causes, in order to facilitate policy review, analysis and development, and to mobilize international action within the framework of subprogramme 2;

(b) Enhanced coordination of environmental assessments and early warning through an international cooperative assessment framework;

(c) Improved capabilities of identifying major emerging environmental problems, threats and emergencies, as well response strategies and methodologists;

(d) Better targeted and focused dissemination and exchange of environmental data and information among countries;

(e) Global international waters assessment; and

(f) Updated report on the state of the global marine environment.

2. Subprogramme 2: Policy development and law

45. This subprogramme will provide a framework for environmental policy review and analysis. It will also facilitate the monitoring of current policies for the purpose of formulating and developing alternative or additional policy, legal, economic and other instruments. The subprogramme will enable UNEP to keep under continuous review the performance of environmental policies, including international agreements. Through the subprogramme, United Nations system-wide coordination and cooperation on the

environment will be strengthened. The subprogramme will have a strong bearing on the work of the other subprogrammes especially subprogramme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning; subprogramme 4: Technology, industry and economics; subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation; and subprogramme 6: Environmental conventions.

46. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To ensure a continuous assessment of the performance of environmental policies, including international agreements;

(b) To work with Governments, their intergovernmental bodies and relevant organizations in the design of new integrated policy packages to tackle the root causes of critical environmental concerns identified, inter alia in subprogramme 1, notably the regional and global environment outlook reports;

(c) To promote a better integration of environmental considerations in governmental and intergovernmental decision-making;

(d) To promote a better integration of international action in the implementation of the global environmental agenda.

47. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To promote intergovernmental dialogue for consensus-building on the root causes of major environmental problems;

(b) To assist Governments in developing policy, legal, economic and other instruments for sound environmental management;

(c) To promote and encourage civil society and non-governmental organizations to participate in environmental management;

(d) To implement United Nations resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the Environmental Management Group;

(e) To implement a strategy for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources for the Environment Fund; and

(f) To develop a comprehensive programme on compliance and enforcement of legal instruments.

48. The expected accomplishments include:

(a) Global environmental agenda updated on the basis of a sound assessment of environmental trends and conditions at the national, regional and global levels;

(b) Comprehensive review and analysis of existing policies in key areas of increasing concern in the Global Environment Outlook, such as climate change, climate risk, environmental disasters, pressures on marine

and coastal areas, atmospheric pollution, impacts of rapid urbanization, water scarcity, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable production and consumption patterns;

(c) Improved United Nations system-wide coordination on the global environmental agenda;

(d) New negotiations initiated and agreements concluded on certain emerging issues identified by sub-programme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning.

49. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Enhanced policy review and analysis and articulated UNEP positions on a range of critical environmental and sustainable development issues;

(b) Innovative policies and instruments developed to enhance global environmental protection, especially in areas of water, land, climate, biodiversity;

(c) UNEP programme established and implemented in the field of compliance and enforcement of policy, legal, economic and other instruments;

(d) Stronger partnerships with Governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations in the work of UNEP;

3. Subprogramme 3: Policy implementation

50. This subprogramme, in concert with subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation, will address policy implementation. It will provide a framework for technical cooperation involving Governments and agencies. Through this subprogramme, support to international coordination of environmental emergency response will be provided.

51. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To test and demonstrate the relevance and effectiveness of selected policy, legal, economic and other initiatives;

(b) To develop environmental emergency response strategies and to stimulate cooperative action to respond to emerging environmental challenges and emergencies; and

(c) To raise public awareness and participation in UNEP programmes and the global environmental agenda through education and training, generation of relevant information and models through pilot projects, and extended networking.

52. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To compile information, for dissemination to Governments, on environmentally-sound and appropriate technologies;

(b) To act as a clearing house for the development of tools and guidelines for use in areas such as integrated water and coastal area management, river basin management, etc.;

(c) To provide specialized advisory services and technical assistance to complement the process carried out in this area within the framework of subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation;

(d) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with a view to reducing and preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities; and

(e) To catalyse and mobilize, in concert with the United Nations family and, as appropriate, in consultation with the affected countries, international response to environmental emergencies, including the promotion of preventive measures, utilization of early warning information and sharing of expertise, information and experience.

53. The expected accomplishments include:

(a) Improved environmental management capabilities and enhanced Government capacity to implement environmental policy;

(b) New forms of technical cooperation developed in the transfer of environmentally-sound and appropriate technologies;

(c) Strengthened mechanisms and capacities for mobilizing, coordinating and implementing emergency responses; and

(d) Implementation of the binding and non-binding agreements expected to emanate from the global conference to be held by the year 2000 on sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health.

54. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Greater self-reliance of countries with regard to the capacity to implement environmental policy;

(b) Increased capacity for implementing tools and guidelines; and

(c) Enhanced capacity for accessing and utilizing environmentally-sound and appropriate technologies.

4. Subprogramme 4: Technology, industry and economics

55. This subprogramme addresses the need to reorient production and consumption patterns towards cleaner and safer technologies, products and services that will use less water and energy, prevent all forms of pollution, and reduce risk to humans and the environment. The subprogramme covers such areas as environmentally sound technologies, production and consumption, including cleaner production, chemicals, energy, economics and trade. It will be closely linked to the other subprogrammes, especially subprogramme 1:

Environmental assessment and early warning; subprogramme 2: Policy development and law and subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation. Special focus will be placed on the development of policies on issues which have a strong bearing on national and regional economies.

56. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To encourage decision makers in Governments, local authorities as well as industry (including extractive and productive industries and service sectors) to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are environmentally cleaner and safer;

(b) To make efficient use of natural resources;

(c) To ensure safe management of chemicals;

(d) To incorporate environmental costs;

(e) To reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment; and

(f) To promote the development, use and transfer of policies, cleaner, safer and environmentally sound technologies, economic instruments, managerial practices and other tools that will assist in environmentally sound decision-making and in the building of corresponding capacities.

57. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To continue to develop global understanding and knowledge of trends in environmental issues related to industrial and urban development, trade, the use of natural resources (particularly energy and water), use of chemicals and consumption patterns, and to monitor the results achieved;

(b) To develop policies and tools to enable Governments and the private sector to respond to the problems identified, including voluntary initiatives and economic instruments;

(c) To continue to facilitate widespread technology transfer, and promote the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies and practices by industry, Governments and local authorities through, in particular, innovative information clearing-house services;

(d) To provide state-of-the-art information for concerted global action for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and cleaner production;

(e) To contribute, within the areas of the subprogramme, to the development and implementation of relevant international environmental agreements developed under the auspices of UNEP; and

(f) To encourage dialogue on the means of implementing environmentally sound technology and practices.

58. The expected accomplishments include:

(a) Greater worldwide use of technologies, products and services which are cleaner and safer;

(b) More efficient use of energy and water;

(c) Reduced pollution and risks for humans and their environments.

59. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Adoption of an international legally-binding instrument to reduce and eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and improved Government capacities to take necessary actions to ensure chemical safety;

(b) Improved understanding and knowledge of environmental issues related to industrial and urban development, trade and the environment sustainable consumption patterns and environmentally-sound use of natural resources;

(c) Adherence to the goals of the International Declaration on Cleaner Production.

5. Subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation

60. This subprogramme provides the basis for ensuring that the UNEP global policies and subprogrammes are inspired and influenced by information emanating from the assessment of regional environmental concerns and priorities. It will also provide a framework and medium for implementing, in the regions, subprogramme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning; subprogramme 2: Policy development and law; subprogramme 3: Policy Implementation; subprogramme 4: Technology, industry and economics; subprogramme 6: Environmental conventions; and subprogramme 7: Communication and public information.

61. The overall objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To provide a framework for enhancing and strengthening the presence of UNEP in the regions so as to ensure effective government participation in the work of UNEP;

(b) To ensure that regional concerns, priorities and perspectives are fully taken into account in the development of UNEP policies, as well as programme planning and implementation; and

(c) To provide an appropriate framework for the effective implementation of the decisions of the UNEP Governing Council in the regions.

62. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To review and analyse the status of environmental problems at the national and regional levels and to devise response strategies;

(b) To develop regional perspectives and positions on major environmental issues and trends requiring attention;

(c) To provide UNEP headquarters with assessments of:

(i) Environmental trends and conditions;

(ii) Nature and scope of government policy and programmatic responses at the national and regional levels;

(d) To provide advisory services and technical assistance, upon request, to Governments;

(e) To provide forums and mechanisms for intergovernmental dialogue on environmental issues;

(f) To promote and support subregional and regional cooperation programmes on the environment; and

(g) To represent UNEP in partnership arrangements in support of environmental management at the national and regional levels.

63. The expected accomplishments include greater visibility and enhanced profile of UNEP in the regions in tackling major environmental issues of crucial importance to the economic development of the countries;

64. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) More effective regional policy responses to global environmental issues;

(b) Increased capacities, in the legal, policy and institutional areas, to address emerging environmental concerns and issues at the national and regional levels.

6. Subprogramme 6: Environmental conventions

65. This subprogramme addresses the programmatic linkages between UNEP and the multilateral environmental conventions and provides services to them as appropriate. It will be closely linked to other subprogrammes, especially: subprogramme 1: Environmental assessment and early warning; subprogramme 2: Policy development and law; and subprogramme 5: Regional cooperation and representation.

66. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate and support the enhancement of environmental and environment-related linkages and coordination of convention, in line with the provisions of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 53/242;

(b) To keep under continuous review the status of implementation of the UNEP-administered conventions, especially those in the regional seas programme, and to provide programmatic support to the implementation of their work programmes.

67. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To reinforce the implementation of the work programmes of conventions, particularly in those areas and issues where strong interlinkages exist with the UNEP programme of work, such as, inter alia, trade and environment, tourism and assessment;

(b) To reinforce further the implementation of the work programmes of conventions and related international processes, by enhancing the participation of the United Nations and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

(c) To enhance the implementation of decisions of the conferences of the parties which UNEP is expected to follow up, particularly those funded by global financial mechanisms, facilities or special funds;

(d) To strengthen the scientific and technical bases for actions within the framework of the conventions;

(e) To support information dissemination on the status and implementation of global environmental conventions;

(f) To support the work of intergovernmental forums of relevance to the areas of work of the conventions;

(g) To render operational a common reporting system on the conventions;

(h) To develop a common data centre for the conventions and a harmonized arrangement for conference services;

(i) To contribute to the development and implementation of relevant international environmental agreements.

(j) To facilitate and support the enhancement of linkages between and among the conventions.

68. The expected accomplishments include:

(a) Vitalization of the regional seas conventions and bringing into operation the weak conventions;

(b) Expanded regional seas programme;

(c) More structured and coherent collaborative arrangements between the conventions (regional and global).

69. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Improved scientific knowledge for responding to emerging policy issues of concern to countries;

(b) Enhanced capabilities of Governments to meet their obligations under the conventions.

7. Subprogramme 7: Communication and public information

70. This subprogramme addresses communication and public information as a means of promoting greater awareness and action among policy makers and the public on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. The subprogramme will have a cross-cutting relationship with the other subprogrammes.

71. The overarching objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To promote greater awareness and facilitate effective cooperation among all sectors of society and actors involved in the formulation and the implementation of the international environmental agenda; and

(b) To forge a stronger partnership, with Governments, the media and other concerned parties, to enhance access to environmental information for strengthening awareness and action by policy makers, civil society and non-governmental organizations.

72. The specific objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To mobilize public participation in environmental management and conservation as a result of increased public access and awareness arising from better targeting of information outputs and communication processes, partnerships with key stakeholders and use of appropriate media;

(b) To refine regional delivery of UNEP substantive information products and use appropriate means and media to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries' access to environmental information;

(c) To strengthen the use of non-traditional approaches to raise public awareness and participation (through special events and emerging media, including electronic publishing, particularly for involving dynamic populations like youth and children and new professions;

(d) To increase the coordination of messages and visual presentation (electronic and print media) as a means of attaining a corporate image and consistent presentation of this in the context of system-wide efforts, utilizing new technologies;

(e) To improve the acquisition of and access to environmental publications and information materials.

73. The expected accomplishments include heightened environmental awareness among the public, leading to new actions and initiatives at all levels of society.

74. The specific accomplishments include:

(a) Innovative local solutions, including public participation, to environmental problems;

(b) Wider use of the new information technology, including the worldwide web, in disseminating environmental information.